

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

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August 28, 2012

**Information About the Morses Pond Northern Basin Dredging Project**

Dear Morses Pond Watershed Resident:

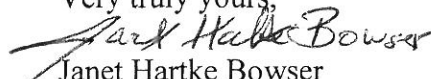
Please be aware that the Morses Pond Northern Basin Dredging Project will begin in early September and the dredging portion of the project will be completed by the end of the year. The project will involve the hydraulic dredging, pumping, and disposal of sediments from the pond and will restore the Northern Basin's detention capacity, which will allow particulate matter to settle in this area before reaching the main part of the pond. The removal of sediment and plant material that have accumulated over many decades will help improve the overall health and clarity of the pond and will prevent the Northern Basin from becoming a degraded water body.

The attached site plan shows the area that will be dredged and where sediment and water from the pond will be pumped and drained. The dredging will involve the use of a 56 ft. x 10 ft. platform that contains a large suction pump that will remove sediment material. Approximately half of the dredged material will be pumped and drained at the Town Beach, where the clean material will be used to replenish the sandy beach. The remaining dredged material will be pumped to the St. James parking lot, where it will settle in large "GeoTubes" through April 2013 and the sediment will then be hauled off-site and the clean water pumped back into the pond. The Town's contractor will operate in compliance with the Town's Bylaws related to working hours and noise. It is anticipated that neither noise nor odor from the project will present a nuisance to residents around the pond.

This project is the third and final substantial "in-pond" implementation component of the 2005 Morses Pond Comprehensive Management Plan, which is a collaborative effort between the Natural Resources Commission, Board of Public Works, and Recreation Commission. The first component was the purchase of a new weed harvester in 2006 to remove invasive plants in the pond. The second component was the 2007 installation of a Phosphorus Inactivation System (PIS) designed to help capture phosphorus and prevent it from entering the pond, thereby reducing algae growth and improving water clarity. On-going, long-term Morses Pond management efforts include weed harvesting, operation of the PIS, installation of rain gardens and other low-impact development projects and watershed education efforts to encourage residents to eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Please find enclosed the NRC's "Healthy Lawns and Landscapes" brochure that outlines simple lawn care steps you can take to help protect the health of the pond. Please visit the "Morses Pond" link on the NRC's website at [www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC) for more detailed information on what you can do to help protect the water quality and recreational resources of the pond.

**For your safety, there should be no swimming, canoeing, kayaking or any other activity in or near the dredging area or at the Town Beach during the project.** Should you wish to learn more about the project or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: [jbowser@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jbowser@wellesleyma.gov) or at 781-431-1019, ext. 2290.

Very truly yours,

  
Janet Hartke Bowser  
NRC Director

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# Morses Pond Northern Basin Dredging Project

## Fall 2012 – April 2013

